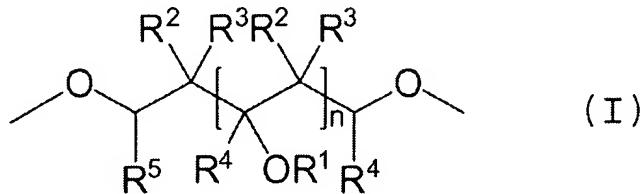


a.) Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A resin composition comprising a thermoplastic resin and a polymer having, in the molecule, a structural unit represented by Formula (I):



(wherein

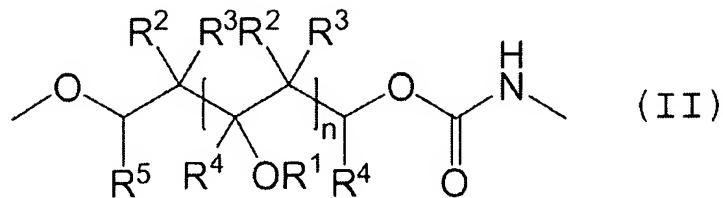
wherein n represents an integer of 2 to 1000;

R¹ represents a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl; and

R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ independently are the same or different from one another and each represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, and when each of R¹s, R²s, R³s, and R⁴s, represent two or more in number, they may be the same or different from each other, respectively) respectively.

2. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer having the structural unit represented by Formula (I) comprises two to four terminal hydroxyl groups and has a number-average molecular weight of 300 to 50,000.

3. (Currently Amended) A resin composition comprising a thermoplastic resin and a polyurethane having, in the molecule, a structural unit represented by Formula (II):



(wherein n, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ are as defined above, respectively)

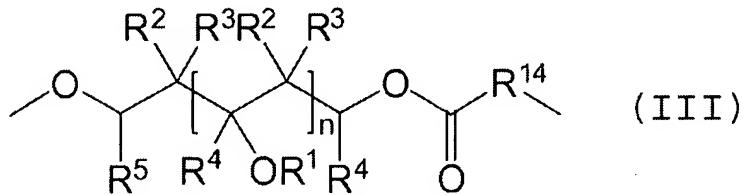
wherein n represents an integer of 2 to 1000;

R¹ represents a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl; and

R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, and when each of R¹s, R²s, R³s, and R⁴s, represent two or more in number, they may be the same or different from each other, respectively.

4. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 3, wherein the polyurethane having, in the molecule, the structural unit represented by Formula (II) has a weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 to 50,000,000.

5. (Currently Amended) A resin composition comprising a thermoplastic resin and a polyester having, in the molecule, a structural unit represented by Formula (III):



(wherein n, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ are as defined above, respectively)

wherein n represents an integer of 2 to 1000;

R¹ represents a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl;

R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, and when each of R¹s, R²s,

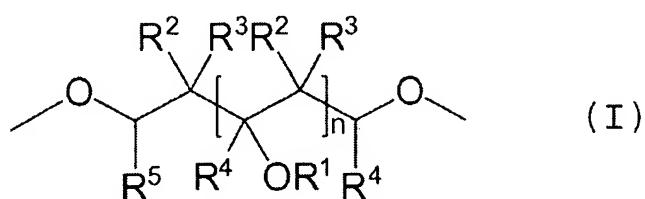
R³s, and R⁴s, represent two or more in number, they may be the same or different from each other, respectively; and

R^{14} represents a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylene, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkylene, or a substituted or unsubstituted **arylene**) **arylene**.

6. (Original) The resin composition according to claim 5, wherein the polyester having, in the molecule, the structural unit represented by Formula (III) has a weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 to 50,000,000.

7. (Original) The resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a poly(lactic acid).

8. (Currently Amended) A process for softening agent for thermoplastic resins comprising admixing a thermoplastic resin with a polymer having, in the molecule, a structural unit represented by Formula (I):



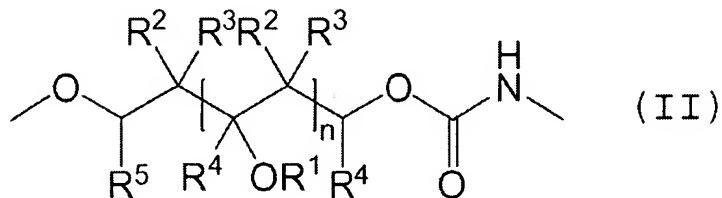
(wherein n , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^5 are as defined above, respectively)

wherein n represents an integer of 2 to 1000;

R¹ represents a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl; and

R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, and when each of R¹s, R²s, R³s, and R⁴s, represent two or more in number, they may be the same or different from each other, respectively.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for softening agent for thermoplastic resins comprising admixing a thermoplastic resin with a polyurethane having, in the molecule, a structural unit represented by Formula (II):



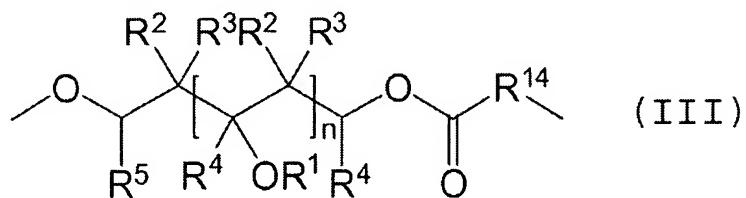
(wherein n, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ are as defined above, respectively)

wherein n represents an integer of 2 to 1000;

R¹ represents a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl; and

R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, and when each of R¹s, R²s, R³s, and R⁴s, represent two or more in number, they may be the same or different from each other, respectively.

10. (Currently Amended) A process for softening agent for thermoplastic resins comprising admixing a thermoplastic resin with a polyester having, in the molecule, a structural unit represented by Formula (III):



(wherein n, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, and R¹⁴ are as defined above, respectively)

wherein n represents an integer of 2 to 1000;

R¹ represents a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl;

R², R³, R⁴, and R⁵ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, and when each of R¹s, R²s, R³s, and R⁴s, represent two or more in number, they may be the same or different from each other, respectively; and

R¹⁴ represents a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylene, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkylene, or a substituted or unsubstituted arylene.